

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 19, 2005. Claims 1-19 are pending, with Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 in independent form. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12-14, 16 and 17 have been amended. In particular, Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 have been amended to specify that the characters rendered on the tabs are stored in a non-image format. These claims also have been amended to specify that stored global tab stock data is indicative of a tab stock to be used for printing all of the pages that have tabs. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to require that a plurality of pages be selected in a document to include tabs. The other amendments to the claims are believed to be formal in nature and, therefore, that the scope of the claims has not been narrowed by these amendments. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action includes a rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular Claim 1 included the phrase "the marker" in line 6, for which insufficient antecedent basis existed. Applicants have removed the reference to "the marker" in Claim 1 and, accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,337,161 (Hube). Claims 4, 9, 14, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Hube in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,198 (Neuhard, et al.). Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16, together with the dependent claims are patentably distinct from the cited references, taken separately or in any proper combination for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires a printing system for printing a document. The printing system includes a job preparation station and a print output module. The job preparation station includes a processor, a memory, and a user interface, and is configured at least to generate flags stored in the memory for each of a plurality of pages in a document to be printed. The flags are generated in response to first inputs received from the user interface, the first inputs specifying that selected pages in the document include tabs. The flags indicate that the selected pages in the document contain the tabs. The job preparation station also is configured at

least to store specified characters for each of the selected pages to be rendered on the tabs. The specified characters for each of the selected pages are stored in the memory in a non-image format and are stored in response to second inputs received from the user interface. Further, the job preparation is configured at least to store, on a plurality-of-page basis, global tab stock data in the memory identifying the tab stock to be used for printing all of the selected pages. The global tab stock data is stored in response to a third input received from the user interface. The print output module of the printing system receives the flags, specified characters to be rendered on said tabs, and the global tab stock data from the job preparation station and prints the specified characters on the tabs of the specified pages of the identified tab stock.

Notable features of Claim 1 include the storage of the specified characters for each of the selected pages in a memory in a non-image format, and the storage, on a plurality-of-page basis, of global tab stock data identifying the tab stock to be used for printing all of the selected pages. Support for these features can be found in the specification at least at page 22, line 7 to page 23, line 14. An advantage of storing the specified characters for each of the selected pages in a non-image format is that it reduces storage space and processing requirements for manipulating such information. An advantage of storing global tab stock data on a plurality-of-page basis is that it reduces the amount of storage required for specifying what tab stock should be used for the selected pages.

Contrary to Claim 1, the Hube patent is understood to store and process tab *images* that are rendered onto the tabs of selected pages. (Emphasis added). See column 8, line 29, to column 9, line 32. As described in this portion of the Hube patent, cumbersome image processing tasks must be performed to extract and display the information that should be printed on the page tabs. On the other hand, Claim 1 requires that the information to be rendered on the tabs be characters, which are stored in a non-image format. Consequently, less storage space is required for the information to be rendered on the tabs, and processing of such information is simplified.

Further, the Hube patent is understood to disclose storing a tab stock type on a *page-by-page* basis. (Emphasis added). See column 8, lines 18 – 28 (“the stock type, as recorded in a *page ticket* for a specified page image is changed to match the specified tab type (S27). The page ticket refers to the data

structure that contains *page-level* programming parameters, such as, type of stock, color of stock”) (emphasis added). The Hube patent is understood to disclose a page ticket for each page, in which a stock type is stored. Accordingly, Applicants understand that the Hube patent identifies, for every page, what stock type should be used. In contrast, Claim 1 requires that global tab stock data identifying the tab stock to be used for printing all of the selected pages be stored on a plurality-of-page basis. Consequently, less data needs to be stored to identify which tab stock should be used for the tabbed pages, and processing is thereby simplified. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is patentable over the Hube patent and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

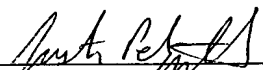
The Neuhard et al. patent also is not believed to teach or suggest the features of Claim 1 discussed above, taken separately or in any proper combination with the Hube patent.

Independent Claims 6, 11, and 16 include features similar to those described above with respect to Claim 1. In particular, Claims 6, 11, and 16 all require that the specified characters for each of the selected pages be stored in a non-image format, and that information identifying the specific tab stock is stored on a plurality-of-page basis. Accordingly Claims 6, 11 and 16 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is respectfully requested.

The other rejected claims in this Application depend from one of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is respectfully requested. Since each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 52,118

Justin D. Petruzzelli/dn
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-726-7522
Facsimile: 585-477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.